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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

JAN 10 1953

Dear Commissioner McGrath:

This letter is the result of a series of letters and conferences initiated by Senator Hubert Humphrey and Mr. Clarence Mitchell, Washington Director, NAACP, protesting the practices of segregation in schools operated at Fort San Houston, Texas; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Sill, Oklahoma and Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

The fact that segregation has been practiced in these schools which are on military installations has been a matter of concern to the Department of Defense. As you know, it has been the policy of this department to do away with discriminatory practices in the Armed Services. This is particularly true of schools on military and naval installations which are operated by the military departments.

It is anomalous, as Senator Humphrey points out, that some schools on military installations are operated on an integrated basis while others attended by the same type of children, using Government-owned buildings and financed largely by Federal funds, are operated on a segregated basis, and it is contrary to the policies of the Department of Defense.

The educational agencies in the states of Texas, Oklahoma and Virginia are receiving financial assistance in accordance with your determinations under Public Law 874, whereby the decisions as to whether the local community can provide the educational program is solely your responsibility. Since the determination as to whether a local educational agency is able to provide suitable free public education is entirely outside the province of this department, the fact of segregated schools in these four instances does not result from a decision or discretion of the Department of Defense.

I know that in exercising your discretion under this Act, you may wish to take this important matter into your consideration and I would appreciate your letting me know whether you consider it proper that children be required to attend a segregated school on a

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Federal installation under a program financed to a considerable degree by Federal money. It is our feeling that this practice is unsatisfactory and is violative not only of the policy of the Department of Defense but also contravenes the policy set forth by the President.

Sincerely yours,

(Signature)

Anna M. Rosenberg

Mr. Earl J. McGrath
Commissioner
Office of Education
Federal Security Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

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